

because it is a homonym has been entirely ignored. The reason for this may be that there is an error in the *Index Kewensis* (1: 68 1893) in that the references to the Linnaean *Aira spicata* are given in reverse order to what they should be.

Under the American Code of Nomenclature with its emphasis on the invalidity of all homonyms and its recognition of page priority, there is no doubt about the invalidity of the name *Trisetum spicatum* (L.) Richter. The Vienna (Brussels) Code is typically vague and difficult of application, but as I read Article 51 (2) and Article 56 and the examples given the same results would be reached.

In this connection it may be well to point out that a statement made by Father Louis Marie in *RHODORA* 30: 238 (1928) 1929 concerning the type of the second *Aira spicata* L. is of very doubtful correctness. He says "one must go back to Scheuchzer, quoted by Linnaeus in his original diagnosis of *Aira spicata* to reconstitute the type of *T. spicatum*." It is true that Linnaeus cited Scheuchzer, as stated, but his type was a Lapland plant studied by himself, the habitat given by him being "Habitat in Lapponiae alpibus." The point may not be of any importance but as Father Louis Marie gives fourteen named varieties "departing from Scheuchzer's type," it may be of importance.

MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA, VAR. MINOR

M. L. FERNALD.

To one who from boyhood has been familiar with the common white-flowered Buck Bean or Bog Bean of Atlantic North America there comes a real surprise when he sees European plates of *Menyanthes trifoliata* L. In such works as Smith's *English Botany*, vii. t. 495 (1798), Baxter's *British Flowering Plants*, iv. t. 245 (1839), Mrs. Loudon's *British Wild Flowers*, t. 45 (1847) or Anne Pratt's *Flowering Plants and Ferns of Great Britain*, iv. t. 139 (1873) *Menyanthes trifoliata* is represented with flesh-pink to crimson corollas 2-3 cm. broad; but the plant generally distributed in quagmires, wet meadows and pond-margins of eastern North America has the flowers white or at most slightly purplish on the outside or at the tips of the corolla-lobes, and it is beautifully illustrated in natural color in the painting

by Miss Elsie Louise Shaw in Mrs. Dana's *How to Know the Wild Flowers* (ed. of 1900), t. xix, and in the color-photograph in *House, Wild Flowers of New York*, pt. 2, t. 169 (1918). In the plant of Atlantic America the expanded white corollas are usually only 1.5–2 cm. broad, though occasionally a little larger, while some herbarium-specimens of the Eurasian plant indicate that the corolla there may sometimes be under 2 cm. in breadth; and, while many European plates indicate pink or purple corollas, others show them white, and European descriptions ordinarily state that they are white above but pink or purple outside. The difference in color is not, therefore, absolute, though there seems to be a stronger tendency to roseate coloring in the Eurasian than in the Atlantic American plant, just as in the Eurasian the flowers are usually much larger. Study of abundant specimens and plates shows, also, that the beard of the upper surface of the corolla is more abundant and longer in the Eurasian than in the Atlantic American plant, in the Old World material covering all or nearly all the upper surface of the corolla-lobes, in the eastern American being more concentrated from the middle to the bases of the lobes.

I have sought in vain for any morphological differences: the leaflets seem to be of the same form and venation; the stipular bases alike; the racemes similar, though in the Eurasian often longer and with greater tendency to subverticillate arrangement of flowers; the pedicels, variable in length in both series, elongate or, at the northern limits of each, very abbreviated; the bracts and calyx-lobes with similar variation; the dimorphic stamens and styles similar; and the seeds apparently identical. There seem to be, then, no satisfactory specific characters to separate the two plants, but as geographic varieties they are well marked. The typical Eurasian plant enters North America on the Pacific slope, all the material from Alaska to California belonging to it; and it approaches our northeastern region in Greenland. The material before me from the Rocky Mountain region is not in condition for precise identification; but all specimens from east of the Rocky Mountains belong definitely to the Atlantic American variety.

The latter plant should apparently be called *Menyanthes trifoliata*, var. *minor* Michx., though the variety is ascribed to Michaux only through a characteristic blunder of Rafinesque. In his *Flora-Boreali Americana*, i. 126 (1803) Michaux, calling the plant unequivocally

M. trifoliata, appended the “*Obs. Parvitate tantum ab Europaea differt.*” In 1820, Jacob Bigelow, *American Medical Botany*, iii. t. xlvi. (pp. 55–57), likewise unequivocally calling the plant *M. trifoliata*, stated that: “I have compared specimens of the native, and foreign plant, without being able to perceive the least definable difference, except in size; the American being smaller. Yet, if we admit the statements of botanical writers, the plant flowers in England at least a month later than it does in the neighbourhood of Boston, a circumstance not usual in other species of vegetables The colour [of corolla], in the American variety, is generally white, with a tinge of red, particularly on the outside In New England this plant flowers about the middle of May.” Then came Rafinesque, copying Bigelow’s plate (with the addition of a rootstock) and copying in none too clear fashion Michaux’s and Bigelow’s observations. In his *Medical Flora*, ii. 33–35, t. 63 (1830) Rafinesque published the eastern American plant as *Menyanthes verna*:

Sp. *Menyanthes verna*, Raf corolla fringed at the base, not ciliated.

DESCRIPTION corolla white, with a red tinge, a short tube, five oval acute segments, spreading or revolute, fringed at the base above,

HISTORY. This plant is common to the north of the two continents. The American plant, figured here, is confined to the North, in Canada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, but it spreads in the mountains as far south as Virginia. It forms a peculiar species called variety *Minor*, by Michaux and Bigelow, which is well distinguished from the *M. trifoliata* of Europe, of which the characters are:

M. trifoliata L. corolla ciliated and fringed all over above; flowers rose colour, blossoming in summer. It is a beautiful plant, growing in or near marshes, bogs, ponds, and brooks, blossoming in April and May.

Coming as it does after the assertion that *M. trifoliata* blossoms “in summer,” the statement that it blossoms “in April and May” was presumably intended by Rafinesque to apply to his *M. verna*. Similar confusion will be noted in the paragraph headed HISTORY: “This plant [the endemic American *M. verna*] is common to the two continents”; and, again, “The American plant forms a peculiar species called variety *Minor*, by Michaux and Bigelow.” But, applying the leniency usually necessary in interpreting Rafinesque, it is evident that he took Michaux’s statement

that our plant "Parvitate tantum ab Europaea differt" and Bigelow's similar assertion as equivalent to publication of a variety. Since the name, *M. trifoliata*, var. *minor*, ascribed by Rafinesque to Michaux, is definitely associable with our plant, less confusion will result by taking it up than by substituting a new varietal name.

The suggestion by Bigelow, that var. *minor* flowers a month earlier than typical *M. trifoliata*, was based on inadequate data. The Eurasian plant in the Gray Herbarium shows flowering dates ranging from late April (northern Italy) and early May (Bavaria, Austria, Japan) to June (Switzerland, Silesia, England, Iceland, Japan); the flowering material from Greenland was collected in late July and early August; and the flowering material of typical *M. trifoliata* from Pacific America shows a similar range: April to August (in the Sierra) in California, late May to mid-June in Oregon, mid-May to late-June in southern Alaska. Near the Atlantic seaboard in America var. *minor* shows a quite similar flowering period: southern Labrador, July; Newfoundland, June to mid-July; Quebec, June and July; Maine, May 27 to June 22; Vermont, June 1 to June 18; Massachusetts, May 3 to June 12 (rarely to August 27); Rhode Island, May (rarely September).

With no morphological differences and no appreciable differences of habit, habitat or flowering season, but with a striking difference in the size of the corolla and in the degree of its bearding and with a strong tendency to white flowers, the plant of eastern America constitutes a good geographic variety:

MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA L., var. MINOR Michx. ex Raf. Med. Fl. ii. 34 (1830). *M. verna* Raf. l. c. 33 (1830).

GRAY HERBARIUM.

ANDROPOGON GLOMERATUS IN RHODE ISLAND.—In the Seventh Report of the Committee on Floral Areas in RHODORA for June, 1929, *Andropogon glomeratus* (Walt.) BSP. was reported only from Massachusetts.

This species is locally common on sand barrens in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, where it was collected by Professor J. Franklin Collins and the writer on October 13, 1923. Specimens have been placed in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club by Professor Collins.—ALBERT E. LOWNES, Providence, Rhode Island.